



Classic

CLASSIC
STAR WARS
17

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C L A S S I C

STAR WARS



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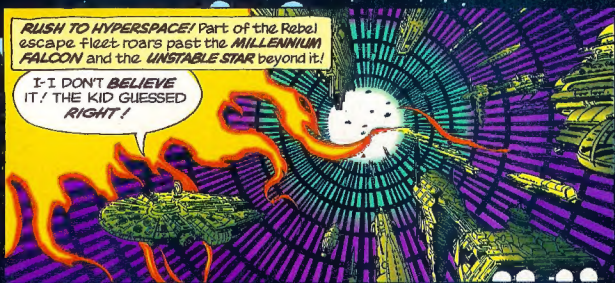
Randy Bowen
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WHAT HAS COME BEFORE

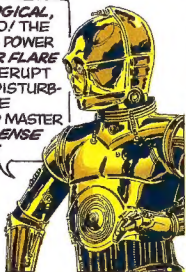
Luke arrives at the Rebel rendezvous point and receives word of General Dodonna's suicide strike against the Imperials at Yavin Base. Meanwhile, the Mon Calamari plan a diversion to help the Rebels escape the Imperial blockade. Admiral Griff wants to take full responsibility for stopping the Rebel attack, so holds off on informing Darth Vader. As the Rebel fleet begins its escape to Hoth, with Luke scouting ahead, Han pilots the *Millennium Falcon* off to find an alternate escape course. Luke discovers an Imperial ambush, and barely escapes a fierce dogfight to warn the Rebels of the Imperials' discovery of their escape route. Elsewhere, the *Falcon* has discovered an "emergency" escape corridor — unfortunately, with an unstable stellar flare-emitting star at the other end. Luke and R2-D2 jettison from their disabled scout ship and are picked up by the *Falcon*. The Rebels choose to escape via the stellar flare corridor, and Luke zooms to the front of the fleet to use the Force to sense for imminent flares. Unfortunately, his use of the Force also makes his presence known to Vader . . .

RUSH TO HYPERSPACE! Part of the Rebel escape fleet roars past the **MILLENNIUM FALCON** and the **UNSTABLE STAR** beyond it!

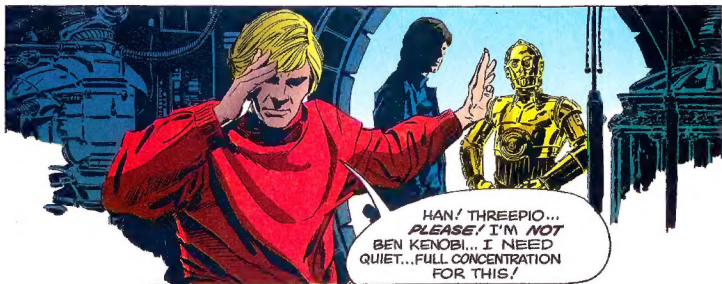
I-I DON'T BELIEVE
IT! THE KID GUESSED
RIGHT!



IT'S QUITE **LOGICAL**, CAPTAIN SOLO! THE TREMENDOUS POWER OF A **STELLAR FLARE** BUILDING TO ERUPT CREATES A DISTURBANCE IN THE **FORCE**...AND MASTER LUKE CAN **SENSE** THAT!



THERE'S **NOTHIN'** LOGICAL ABOUT MUMBO JUMBO LIKE THE **FORCE**, BRIGHT EYES!



HAN! THREEPIO... **PLEASE!** I'M NOT BEN KENOBI... I NEED QUIET...**FULL CONCENTRATION** FOR THIS!

But as a **RESULT** of that concentration...

FULL SPEED! LUKE SKYWALKER HAS **REVEALED** HIMSELF TO ME!

YES, LORD VADER! BUT **ADMIRAL GRIFF** IS DOING EVERYTHING TO REACH THE **REBELS FIRST!**



Aware the Alliance fleet is getting away, Admiral Griff orders his pursuing cruisers into hyperspace!

SIR, IF WE
MISCALCULATE
EVEN
SLIGHTLY...

...WE'LL COME OUT IN
THE *CENTER* OF THAT
SUN THE REBELS ARE
PASSING.

THEY'RE
RISKING ITS
STELLAR FLARE
ERUPTIONS! WE'LL
WIN BY
MATCHING THEIR
BOLDNESS!

WE'VE LOST
SOME OF THE
REBEL FLEET
ALREADY,
ADMIRAL
GRIFF!

BUT BY COMING OUT
OF HYPERSPACE ON THE
FAR SIDE OF THAT
UNSTABLE SUN...

...WE CAN STILL
CATCH *MOST* OF THEM...
JUST AS THEY'RE
BUILDING SPEED
FOR THEIR FINAL
LEAD TO
FREEDOM!

Unaware of Admiral Griff's
desperate move to
overtake the Rebel
fleet... Luke continues
to guide them past the
unstable sun...

...by reaching out with the **FORCE!**

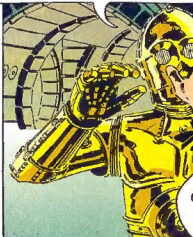
HAN! TELL LEIA
TO HALT ALL **SHIPS!**
SOMETHING'S ABOUT
TO HAPPEN...
SOMETHING
BAD!



Barely has Han given
word to **HALT** the
Rebel fleet's
passage than...

STELLAR FLARE!
KICKIN' OUT RIGHT
WHERE OUR **SHIPS**
WOULD'VE
BEEN!

MASTER LUKE'S DOING A **MAGNIFICENT**
JOB...USING THE **FORCE** TO **SENSE**
EACH DISTURBANCE BUILDING!



QUIET, BRIGHT EYES!
DON'T SHATTER HIS
CONCENTRATION...SOMETHIN'
MIGHT BE ERUPTIN' **OUR**
WAY!

ANOTHER STELLAR FLARE!
IF THAT MISERABLE FIREBALL
KEEPS HICCPIN'...THE REST
OF THE FLEET'LL **NEVER**
GET PAST!

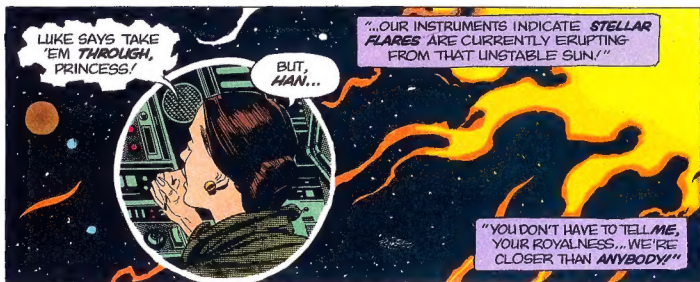
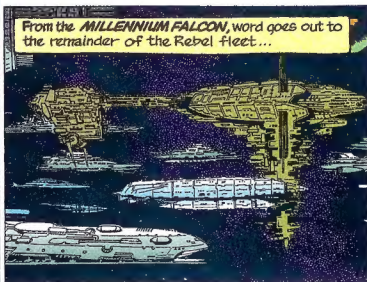
H-HAN?
I THINK I
PERCEIVE A
PATTERN!

What Luke **DOESN'T** perceive
is that his use of the Force
draws another...

THE REBELS
ARE TRULY **MAD,**
LORD VADER! HOW
CAN THEY TAKE
THEIR FLEET PAST
AN **UNSTABLE**
SUN?



WITH THE
FORCE, ANYTHING
IS POSSIBLE...



And on the troublesome star's *FAR* side, the Empire *HAS*... in the form of Darth Vader's *EXECUTOR* dropping from hyperspace.

EXCELLENT!
NEITHER THE REBELS
NOR ADMIRAL GRIFF
HAVE COME
THROUGH!



The word goes out...move
the rest of the fleet!

PRINCESS!
IS COMMANDER SKYWALKER
SURE? STELLAR FLARES ARE
STILL ERUPTING FROM THAT
UNSTABLE SUN./



LUKE'S READING OF
THE FLARES' PATTERNS
IS THAT THEY'RE
RECEDING IN
STRENGTH! WE CAN
GO *NOW*--BEFORE THE
EMPIRE ARRIVES--
AND NOT BE
TOUCHED!

I HOPE!



FULL SPEED TO THE *CENTER*
OF THE SYSTEM! WE'LL
CATCH YOUNG SKYWALKER
AND HIS FRIENDS AS THEY
COME THROUGH!

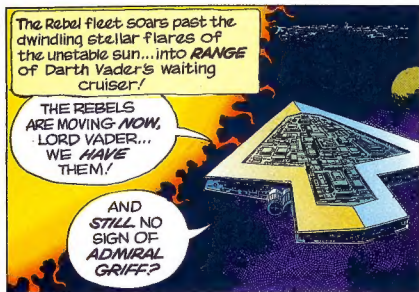
YOU'VE TRICKED
ADMIRAL GRIFF INTO
DRIVING THE PRIZE INTO
OUR HANDS, LORD
VADER!



FIRE UP THE *ENGINES*, HAN! AS THE
LAST OF OUR FLEET GOES PAST...
WE'LL *FOLLOW*!

UNLESS
YOU'RE *WRONG*
ABOUT THOSE
STELLAR FLARES
RECEDING,
KID!

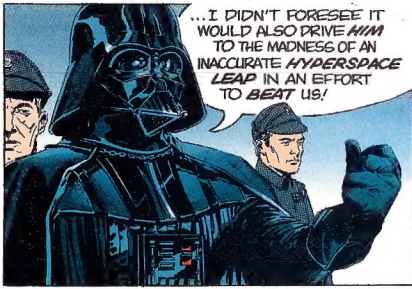






NO *DAMAGE*, LORD VADER...
THANKS TO OUR SHIELD! BUT
THAT ZEALOUS FOOL, *ADMIRAL*
GRIFF, WAS DESTROYED!

I USED
HIS AMBITION
TO DRIVE THE
REBELS TO
ME...

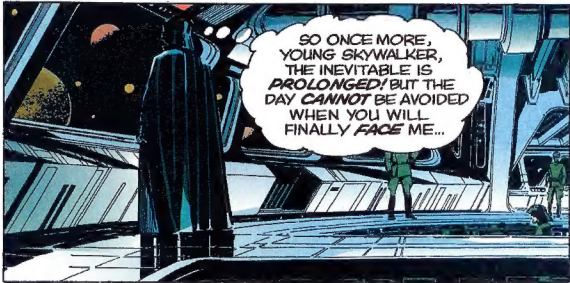


...I DIDN'T FORESEE IT
WOULD ALSO DRIVE *HIM*
TO THE MADNESS OF AN
INACCURATE *HYPERSPACE*
LEAP IN AN EFFORT
TO BEAT US!



LORD VADER,
ONCE WE SWING BACK
INTO *FIRING*
POSITION,
WE CAN--

--WATCH
THE *LAST*
REBEL SHIP
DISAPPEARING
INTO
HYPERSPACE.

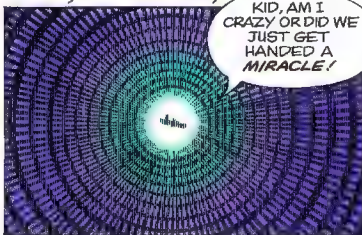


SO ONCE MORE,
YOUNG *SKYWALKER*,
THE INEVITABLE IS
PROLONGED! BUT THE
DAY *CANNOT* BE AVOIDED
WHEN YOU WILL
FINALLY *FACE* ME...



...MY SON!

The *MILLENNIUM FALCON* darts for hyperspace... following the other Alliance ships past a suddenly *THWARTED* enemy!

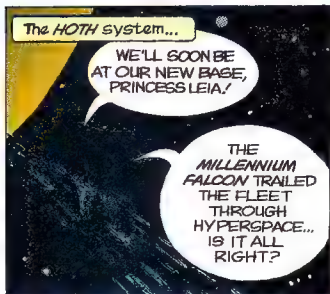


KID, AM I CRAZY OR DID WE JUST GET HANDED A *MIRACLE*!



DARTH VADER'S CRUISER HAD OUR WHOLE FLEET *COLD* AS IT CAME AROUND THAT UNSTABLE SUN!

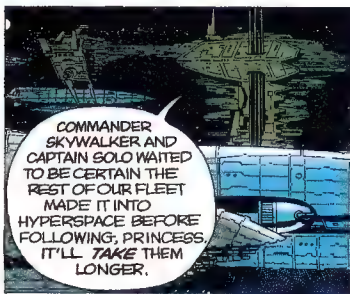
YAHOO! *HOTH*... HERE WE COME!



The *HOTH* system...

WE'LL SOON BE AT OUR NEW BASE, PRINCESS LEIA!

THE *MILLENNIUM FALCON* TRAILED THE FLEET THROUGH *HYPERSPACE*... IS IT ALL RIGHT?



COMMANDER SKYWALKER AND CAPTAIN SOLO WAITED TO BE CERTAIN THE REST OF OUR FLEET MADE IT INTO *HYPERSPACE* BEFORE FOLLOWING, PRINCESS. IT'LL *TAKE* THEM LONGER.

BY THE TIME WE'RE
DOWN AT OUR HOTH BASE,
THE **MILLENNIUM
FALCON** SHOULD
APPEAR.

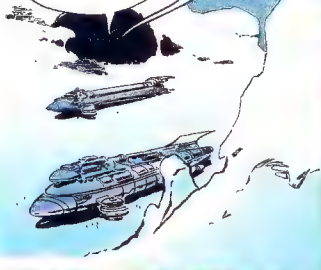
EXCEPT THAT SHIP
AND ITS SKIPPER
DON'T ALWAYS DO
WHAT THEY
SHOULD!'



The ice planet **HOTH**... home of the new Rebel base!

YOU'VE
DONE **WONDERS**
IN SO SHORT
A TIME, GENERAL
RIEKKAN!

THERE'S STILL
MUCH TO BE
DONE, YOUR
HIGHNESS...



...BUT SOMETHING **ELSE** SEEMS
TO BE TROUBLING YOU.

SOMETHING THAT
SHOULD BE HERE
AND **ISN'T**...THE
**MILLENNIUM
FALCON!**



WE
KNOW THEY
FOLLOWED OUR
FLEET **INTO**
HYPERSPACE,
GENERAL
RIEKKAN...





HAN, HOW CAN WE BE **LOST**? WE WERE ON A PROGRAMMED COURSE THROUGH **HYPERSPACE**!

NAVIGATIONAL COMPUTER SEEMS TO HAVE GONE **HAYWIRE**, LUKE...



THREEPIO, YOU DONT WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M CONSIDERIN'!

HAN, CONSIDER FINDING A SAFE PLACE TO **LAND** AND MAKE REPAIRS!

IT'LL BE MUCH EASIER MAKING REPAIRS ON A **PLANET** THAN HERE IN SPACE!

KID, WE'VE HAD A LOTTA **BAD LUCK** ON STRANGE PLANETS. BESIDES...



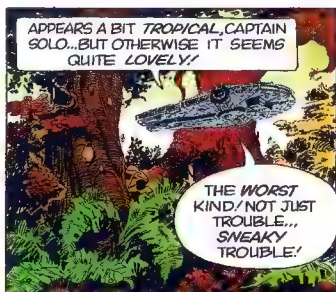
...I KIND'A *LIKE* SLAMMIN' THIS MALFUNCTIONING SO-AND-SO AROUND!



THERE'S A *PLANET* IN SIGHT... NO REASON WE CAN'T LAND AND GET TO WORK.



LUKE, YOU *KNOW* THE KIND OF PLACE WE WIND UP IN...THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON!



APPEARS A BIT *TROPICAL*, CAPTAIN SOLO...BUT OTHERWISE IT SEEMS QUITE LOVELY!

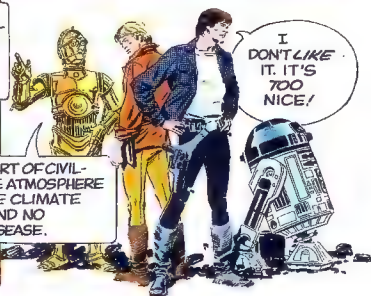
THE *WORST* KIND/NOT JUST TROUBLE...
SNEAKY TROUBLE!



AFTER ALL OUR TIME IN SPACE, THIS PLANET SEEMS *FINE* TO ME!

NONE OF OUR WORKING INSTRUMENTS DETECT EVIDENCE OF IMPERIALS, MASTER LUKE...

...OR ANY SORT OF CIVILIZATION. THE ATMOSPHERE IS SAFE, THE CLIMATE PLEASANT, AND NO TRACE OF DISEASE.



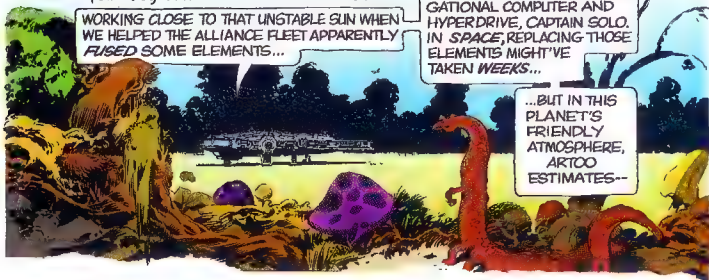
I DON'T *LIKE* IT. IT'S TOO NICE!

Repairs begin on the *MILLENNIUM FALCON*...

WORKING CLOSE TO THAT UNSTABLE SUN WHEN WE HELPED THE ALLIANCE FLEET APPARENTLY *FUSED* SOME ELEMENTS...

...THAT AFFECTED YOUR NAVIGATIONAL COMPUTER AND HYPERDRIVE, CAPTAIN SOLO. IN SPACE, REPLACING THOSE ELEMENTS MIGHT'VE TAKEN *WEEKS*...

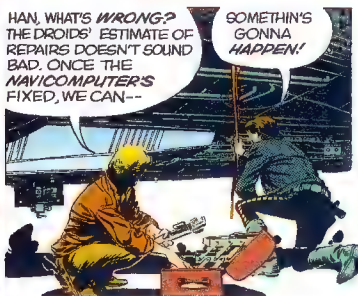
...BUT IN THIS PLANET'S FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE, ARTOO ESTIMATES--



I CAN'T STAND IT! LUKE, YOU GOTTA *DO* SOMETHIN'!

HAN, WHAT'S *WRONG*? THE DROIDS' ESTIMATE OF REPAIRS DOESN'T SOUND BAD. ONCE THE *NAV/COMPUTER'S* FIXED, WE CAN--

SOMETHIN'S GONNA *HAPPEN*!

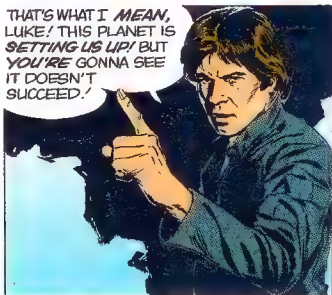


KID, WE'VE NEVER BEEN *ANYWHERE* WITHOUT RUNNING INTO *SOME* KIND OF BAD NEWS!

BUT... EVERYTHING'S GOING *FINE* HERE!



THAT'S WHAT I *MEAN*, LUKE! THIS PLANET IS *SETTING US UP*! BUT *YOU'RE* GONNA SEE IT DOESN'T SUCCEED!



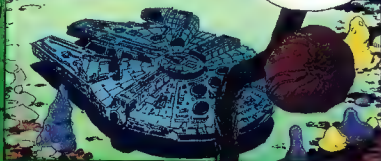


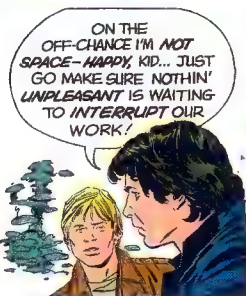
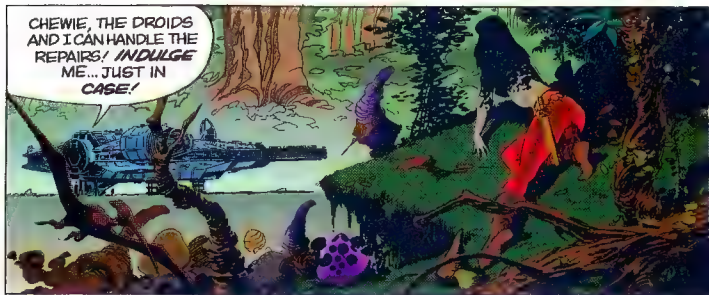
LUKE, MY WHOLE LIFE I'VE ALWAYS RUN INTO TROUBLE...EVEN MORE SO SINCE TEAMIN' UP WITH YOU AND THE PRINCESS!

AND WHEN I FIND A PLACE WHERE THERE ISN'T ANY...

...I GET *REAL* NERVOUS! SCOUT AROUND! I FIGURE IF THERE'S ANYTHING AT ALL...YOU AN' THE FORCE SHOULD SPOT IT!

HAN, YOU'RE OVERREACTING! THERE'S NOTHING--





Luke plunges through the lush tropical foliage, until...

THAT GIRL!
I KNOW HER...
TANITH
SHIRE!

CAN'T
RISK A BLASTER
SHOT FROM HERE...
MIGHT HIT
HER!

Drawing his lightsaber, Luke charges to the rescue!

TANITH SHIRE
SAVED MY LIFE WHEN
I WAS SPYING ON
THE EMPIRE!

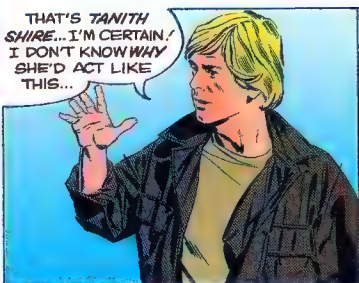
DON'T KNOW
HOW SHE WOUND UP
HERE... BUT SHE'S NOT
ABOUT TO BECOME DINNER
FOR SOME WEED WITH
DELUSIONS OF
GRANDEUR! NOT IF
I CAN HELP IT!

As Luke slashes to free the girl...

MY
LIGHTSABER!

T-THING'S FANTASTICALLY
STRONG! GOT TO REACH...
MY BLASTER! GOT TO!

But the tentacle-like tendril only
pulls Luke's hand *FURTHER* away!

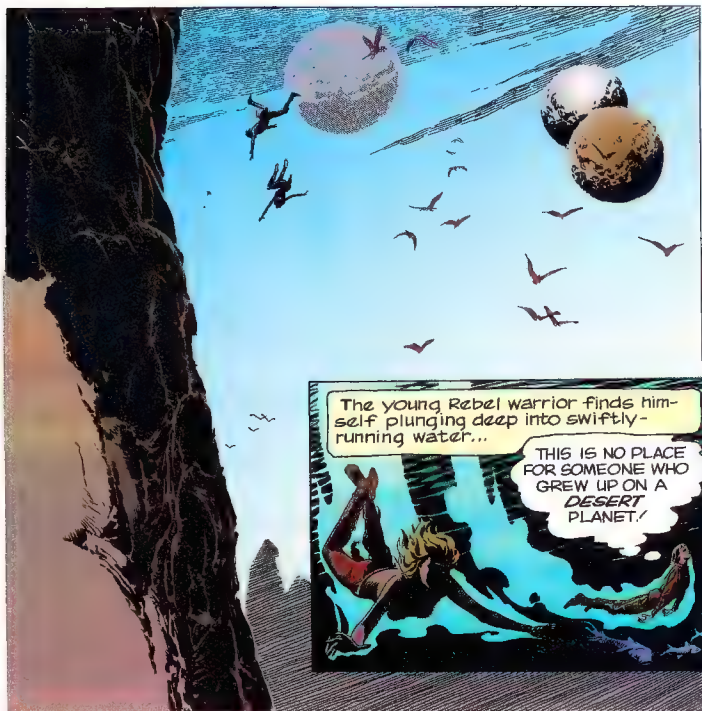




Luke's leap carries him to the frightened girl. But...



TANITH!
YOU'RE PULLING US
OVER!



The young Rebel warrior finds himself plunging deep into swiftly-running water...

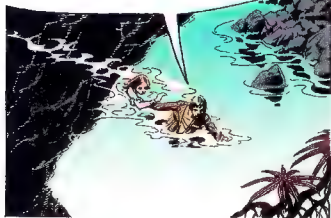
THIS IS NO PLACE
FOR SOMEONE WHO
GREW UP ON A
DESERT
PLANET./



Desperately, he fights his way to the surface...



TANITH! HANG ON!
I'VE **GOT** YOU! THE WATER'S
NOT SO SWIFT OVER HERE,
WE'LL BE OKAY...



YOU'RE NOT TANITH SHIRE!
YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING
LIKE HER!'

WHAT'S
GOING ON
AROUND
HERE?!



WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT MADE
ME THINK YOU WERE **TANITH
SHIRE**?! YOU DON'T LOOK
SIMILAR AT ALL!

I AM
S'YBLL AND
I FEAR THE
ATMOSPHERE
OF MY
WORLD...



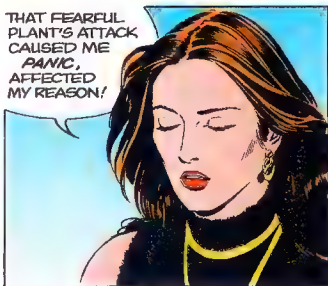


I APOLOGIZE...

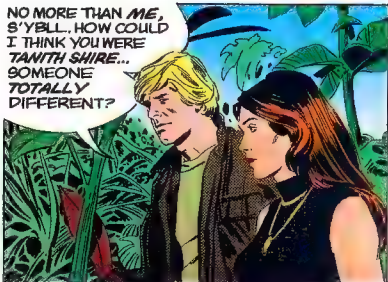


...IT'S SURE GOT ME CONFUSED!

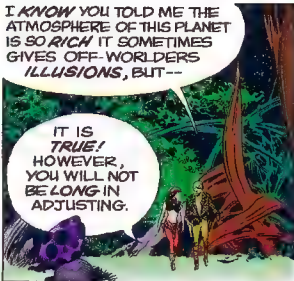
THAT FEARFUL PLANT'S ATTACK CAUSED ME PANIC, AFFECTED MY REASON!



NO MORE THAN *ME*,
S'YBLL... HOW COULD
I THINK YOU WERE
TANITH SHIRE...
SOMEONE
TOTALLY
DIFFERENT?

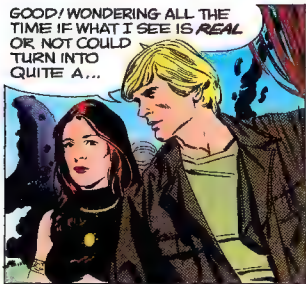


I *KNOW* YOU TOLD ME THE
ATMOSPHERE OF THIS PLANET
IS SO *RICH* IT SOMETIMES
GIVES OFF-WORLDBERS
ILLUSIONS, BUT--



IT IS
TRUE!
HOWEVER,
YOU WILL NOT
BE LONG IN
ADJUSTING.

GOOD! WONDERING ALL THE
TIME IF WHAT I SEE IS *REAL*
OR NOT COULD
TURN INTO
QUITE A...



...PROBLEM!



LOOK OUT, S'YBLL!
WHATEVER TRICKS YOUR
PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE
MAY PLAY ON ME...



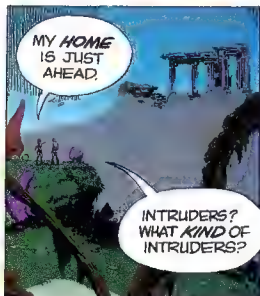
...I *KNOW*
WHEN I'M
FACING AN
IMPERIAL
STORMTROOPER!
AND--

W-WHAT?!



S'YBLL!
THIS IS JUST...AN
EMPTY SUIT OF
STORMTROOPER
ARMOR!
W-WHY?

I PLACED
IT HERE, LUKE...
IN HOPE IT
MIGHT KEEP
INTRUDERS
AT BAY.



MY **HOME**
IS JUST
AHEAD.

INTRUDERS?
WHAT **KIND** OF
INTRUDERS?

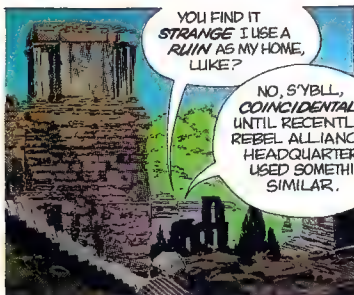
MY PLANET APPEARS
TO BE A TROPICAL
PARADISE, LUKE, BUT
THERE **ARE** DANGERS
...WILD BEASTS AND
SUCH.

BUT **EMPTY STORMTROOPER**
ARMOR FRIGHTENS THEM OFF?



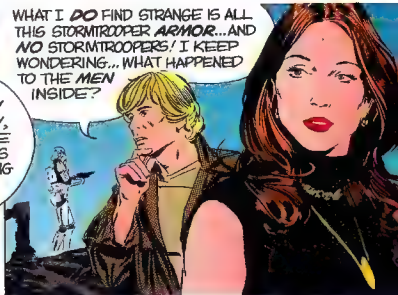
SOMETIMES. PERHAPS IT IS
FOOLISH. STILL... IT IS NOT
EASY FOR A WOMAN ALONE
TO DEFEND HER HOME.

AND **THIS** IS
YOUR HOME,
S'YBLL?

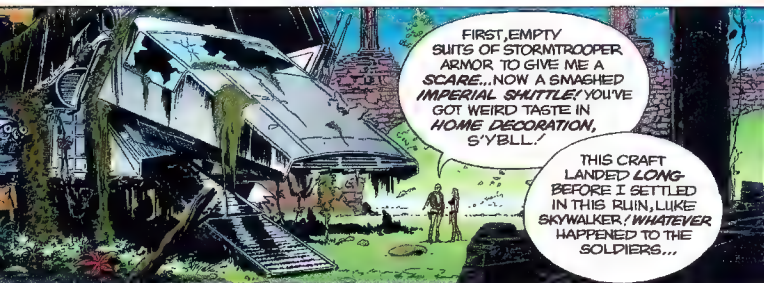


YOU FIND IT
STRANGE I USE A
RUIN AS MY HOME,
LUKE?

NO, S'YBLL,
COINCIDENTAL!
UNTIL RECENTLY,
REBEL ALLIANCE
HEADQUARTERS
USED SOMETHING
SIMILAR.



WHAT I **DO** FIND STRANGE IS ALL
THIS **STORMTROOPER ARMOR**...AND
NO STORMTROOPERS! I KEEP
WONDERING... WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE **MEN**
INSIDE?



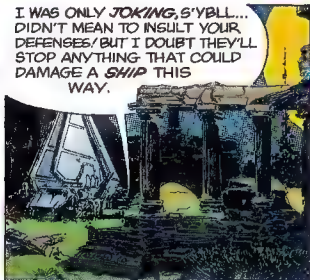
FIRST, EMPTY SUITS OF STORMTROOPER ARMOR TO GIVE ME A SCARE...NOW A SMASHED IMPERIAL SHUTTLE! YOU'VE GOT WEIRD TASTE IN HOME DECORATION, S'YBLL!

THIS CRAFT LANDED LONG BEFORE I SETTLED IN THIS RUIN, LUKE SKYWALKER! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE SOLDIERS...

...I MERELY PROPPED THEIR ARMOR ABOUT TO FRIGHTEN OFF WILD CREATURES!

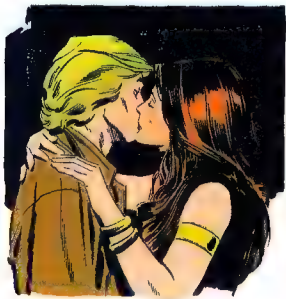
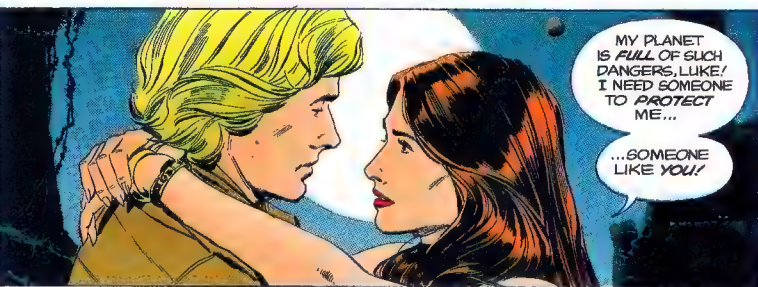
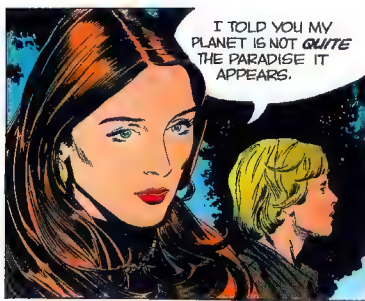


I WAS ONLY JOKING, S'YBLL... DIDN'T MEAN TO INSULT YOUR DEFENSES! BUT I DOUBT THEY'LL STOP ANYTHING THAT COULD DAMAGE A SHIP THIS WAY.



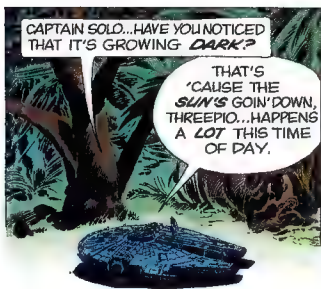
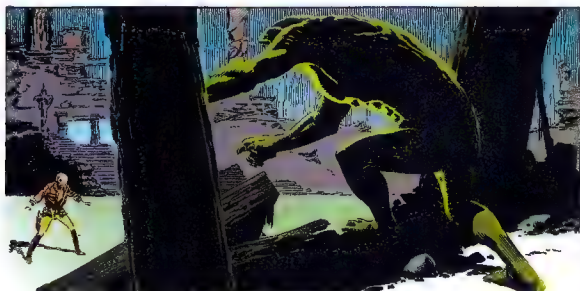
THE DAMAGE TO THIS SHUTTLE DIDN'T COME FROM A CRASH, S'YBLL. THIS HOLE WAS MADE FROM THE OUTSIDE...







S'YBLL!
WHERE DID
YOU *RUN* TO? I
DIDN'T MEAN TO
UPSET YOU, BUT
I CAN'T JUST
DESERT MY
FRIENDS HERE
AND--



CAPTAIN SOLD...HAVE YOU NOTICED
THAT IT'S GROWING *DARK*?

THAT'S
'CAUSE THE
SUN'S GOIN'DOWN,
THREEPIO...HAPPENS
A LOT THIS TIME
OF DAY.



I'M QUITE *AWARE* OF THAT, SIR.
I'M ALSO AWARE *MASTER*
LUKE HASN'T RETURNED.

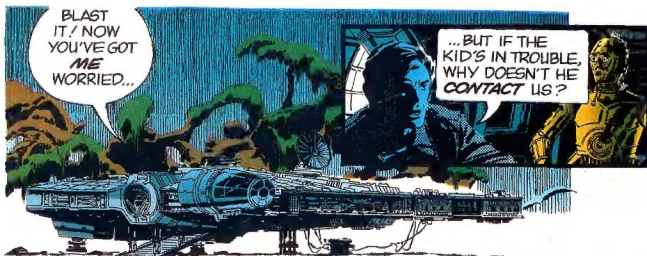
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO SAID
THE PLANET
SEEMED *SAFE*...



"...HE'S PROBABLY JUST
DOING A **THOROUGH**
JOB OF SCOUTING!"



"NATURALLY, CAPTAIN SOLO,
IF YOU **SAY** NOT TO WORRY
ABOUT MASTER LUKE, I
WON'T WORRY! STILL, IT
DOES WORRY ME THAT--"



BLAST
IT! NOW
YOU'VE GOT
ME
WORRIED...

...BUT IF THE
KID'S IN TROUBLE,
WHY DOESN'T HE
CONTACT US?



The adventure continues next
month in **CLASSIC STAR WARS #18!**

STELLAR



10956 S.E. MAIN STREET

MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

Here we go again! If you think our fans aren't passionate about *Star Wars*, just read on:

Jason Y. DuCharme
719 Grant Ave. #7
Junction City, KS 66241

I have never written to a comics company or letters page before. So after nearly 17 years of collecting, reading, and enjoying *Star Wars* (since its premiere), it's about time I spoke up. This is to all of you out there who complain about artwork, story consistency, and little mistakes. I've had enough!

For us *true* fans, artwork is of little consequence. We enjoy our *Star Wars* however it comes. I'm not condoning bad artwork. The good stuff makes it more enjoyable, but there is so little *Star Wars* out there, we take what we can get with the pure pleasure of just knowing it's there!

As for story consistency, this is *Star Wars*! It's science fiction (fiction is the operative word here for all you wearing Vulcan ears and living in a fantasy world at the age of 25). It's a romantic swash-buckling adventure in a sci-fi setting. It's fantasy. It's imagination. How can there be any imagination or artistic impression without what-ifs? So what if someone is supposed to be dead, or Luke's lightsaber is different colors! Come on people, get real! In all the different books, movies, and comics, Boba Fett has been killed and brought back more often than a proctologist puts on rubber gloves. I once read a complaint about Luke's haircut!

So I say to all of the sniveling, whining, snot-nosed, pimple-faced, too-young-to-remember-bell-bottoms, William Shatner-worshipping, computer-nerd, no-imagination, non-artistic, virgin, never-been-kissed, reach-around, Mama's-boy, can't-let-me-enjoy-*Star Wars*-as-is, <*>censored> geeks — GET OVER IT!!! If you want consistency and technical perfection to the point of boredom, go watch *Star Trek* and

leave us *Star Wars* fans to enjoy what's given to us without being marred by your sniveling! (I know I'll get a few nasty-grams, but I'd be very thankful if you would please print my full address so those with differing views may write me and express their own views to me.)

Hey, Dark Horse, you're doing a fantastic job on *Star Wars* material (*Dark Empire* was too cool for words!). Keep it up!



.....

"If you want consistency and technical perfection to the point of boredom, go watch *Star Trek* . . ."

.....

For those of you who don't speak fluent computerese, the first part of this next letter may sound like so much gobbledygook to you; for those of you with access to the InterNet, or simply with telecommunications software that will allow you to access such network services as CompuServe and FidoNet, most of this might make some sense to you:

Arik Hesseldahl
1866 Harris #5
Eugene, OR 97403

I just read *Classic Star Wars* #15, and I've finally decided to write in with my own *SW* fandom tidbits.

In a recent letters column you mentioned the *Star Wars* Echo available on FidoNet. I'm not sure what FidoNet access costs — if it costs at all — but there is also a group on NetNews called rec.arts.sf.starwars that has been a blessing to me because it's free to most college and university students. Beyond that, there are two more computer access media

to consider. First, there is an ftp [**file transfer protocol**] archive devoted to *Star Wars* at wpi.wpi.edu that contains shooting scripts for all three movies and some excellent fan fiction (like John Flynn's "Fall of the Republic" and Julie Lim's "Arcadia"). Beyond that, there is also a channel on InterNet relay chat that needs a few more users. Simply join #starwars (one word) using any InterNet relay chat software. I once spent three hours and had a ton of fun!

Now I'll move onto some non-computer talk . . . I was delighted to see someone picking up the banner of *Star Wars* in a comic forum after the demise of the Marvel series. I loved the series, especially in its earlier years, but they were really losing creative steam.

My local newspaper stopped carrying the *SW* comic strip at the beginning of 1982 and I never did get to find out what happened to that Tanith Shire story line. One question: just how much longer did the strip run? I figured that the Los Angeles Times Syndicate simply dropped it after a few years. Could you furnish us with a little history of the strip's existence in the letters column? I remember it was launched with two separate story lines — one for Sunday strips, and another for dailies. My newspaper hailed its arrival with a front-page story.

Are there any plans to reprint any of these strips or are they part of the oft-mentioned Russ Manning era? I know Manning did *Han Solo at Stars' End*. When did the creative team change over?

I remember story lines like "Planet of Kadriil" and another about some people called "snowgors," or some such . . .

Thank you for the work you do — there's nothing I haven't enjoyed as yet! You've made a regular out of me. Looking forward to: *Classic Star Wars II*, *Dark Empire II* and *III*, and *Dark Lords of the Sith*. I'll keep buying as long as you keep making! One last question:

now that movie plans are official, will you get the rights to movie adaptations?

Steven Damon
17 Apartment Heights
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Greg Eaton
Route 2, Box 225 E
Waldorf, MD 20601

The original run of Russ Manning's *Star Wars* strips, which we will be reprinting next, ran from March 1979 through October 1980, at which point the adaptation of *Han Solo at Stars' End* began. The Goodwin/Williamson run, currently being reprinted in *Classic Star Wars*, then began in February 1981 and ran through to its conclusion in March 1984. Our *Star Wars* license with Lucasfilm does indeed give Dark Horse the rights to produce any and all *Star Wars*-related comic projects through the duration of the license, Arik.

And thanks for all the computer networking info! Personal computer users with any standard telecomm-unications software should be able to access FidoNet. The InterNet (and NetNews, or UseNet) and ftp access are generally only accessible to corporate and academic users, through UNIX-based computer systems, although there are gateways to the InterNet through CompuServe and other similar services that I'm aware of.



Robert Knaus
320 Fisher St.
Walpole, MA 02081

Yet another excellent outing with *Classic Star Wars* #15. Vrad Dodonna's sacrificing himself to save the Alliance was pre-dictable, but tragic nonetheless. I sympathize with General Dodonna, and I'm glad Luke kept Vrad's plot to abandon the Alliance to himself. As to your response to my letter, you challenged us *Star Wars* fans to guess what the inside front cover graphics represent. I think I've got it. Could those blocks and ovals be a close-up of Darth Vader's chest plate lights? [Could they be? Hmmm . . . they could be, but they're not. Anyone else care to venture a guess? Hint: grab all your old West End Games modules and look closely at the drawings.] Okay, I'll see ya in thirty, and may the . . . oh, you know this by now, right?



I cannot begin to express how thrilled I am with the recent revival of *Star Wars*. Since *Return of the Jedi* left the big screen, there had been a long period of nothingness so great that most people I talked to felt that *Star Wars* was gone forever. Only a trickle of products from West End Games marked what had once been a mighty torrent of *Star Wars* material. And so I want to thank you (and Bantam Books) for reopening the floodgates and letting *Star Wars* live again. It amazes me to read your letter column each month and find so many people who are still loyal fans of the ultimate space fantasy.

Classic Star Wars is a delight to read every month. I knew these strips existed, since I occasionally saw them in newspapers, but unfortunately, our local paper didn't carry them. I'm also looking forward to reading the Russ Manning strips, although I expect they will be more like the old Marvel comic in respect to mixed-up continuity. These Goodwin/Williamson strips are wonderful at taking elements from all three movies and making the stories fit right into place with the rest of the saga.

Star Wars began for me in 1979 when my dad took me to see the first movie. I remember being absolutely overwhelmed by the experience — although I caught very little of the plot! (I remember asking my dad as the *Millennium Falcon* landed on a forested world, "Is this planet the Earth?").

Since then I have learned the name of that planet, as well as dozens more besides. I have collected all the books, comics, recordings, posters, models, trading cards, games, and toys that I can lay my hands on (and afford!). I am now a twenty-two-year-old graduate student, and *Star Wars* is still very much a part of my life. And by the way, I would love to communicate with other people who feel as strongly about the saga as I do.



Just a short note to let the entire staff at *Classic Star Wars* know what a great job I think you are doing. I was only ten when *Star Wars* came out, and your comic book brings back parts of my youth. My newspaper only carried the Russ Manning strip for about a year. It's great to be able to see what I missed.

In *Classic Star Wars* #12, you asked for a title for the upcoming Russ Manning series. So here is my suggestion: *Vintage Star Wars*.

Speaking of which, we were absolutely inundated with title suggestions for the upcoming Russ Manning series of reprints (we received literally hundreds of different suggestions!). We've assembled a crack panel of Dark Horse *Star Wars* experts, from amongst the myriad of people who help to bring *Classic Star Wars* to you on a monthly basis, in order to pick a winner. Since these folks rarely, if ever, get their due for the work they've done on this series, the least I can do is give them mention in this column: Scott Fuentes, graphic designer; Russ Bates, film stripper; Evelyn Harris, production artist; Peet Janes, assistant editor; and Suzanne Taylor, proofreader. We are still deliberating over a title for the series, and should have a finalist determined by next issue. So patience, please! All of your suggestions were great, and we've been having a much harder time selecting a winning entry than we thought we would!



Okay, that's all folks! See you here next month for another classic *Star Wars* adventure featuring an absolutely *fabulous* cover by Allen Nunis (believe me, this is his best yet)!

— Bob Cooper



DCP

PRESENTS A
SCAN BY

DARTH SCANNER

*Leeching leads to the Dark Side of the Force.
A good Jedi buys comics and supports the industry!*